

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1977

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5134

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ABLD, ASEC, AFSP

SUBJECT: EMBASSY CHANCERY

REF: BERLIN 6885 (75)

1. SUMMARY: THE CLA IS PROCEEDING RAPIDLY WITH RENOVATION OF THE NEW CHANCERY. THERE ARE SEVERAL FACTORS CONCERNING CURRENTLY-DESIGNATED OFFICE LOCATIONS AS SHOWN IN THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE LOCATION PLAN WHICH THE EMBASSY WISHES TO REVIEW AND AMBASSADOR COOPER WILL DISCUSS DURING HIS FORTHCOMING CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY:

2. THE EMBASSY HAS PREPARED A REVISED VERSION OF THE ORIGINAL OFFICE LAYOUT PLAN WITH SUGGESTED CHANGES FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION. THE REVISED PLAN TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE NEED TO GROUP VARIOUS EMBASSY OFFICES ON A FUNCTIONAL BASIS, THEIR LOCATION IN THE CHANCERY CONSIDERING FSLE AND PUBLIC ACCESS REQUIREMENTS, THEIR WORKING RELATIONSHIP TO EACH OTHER AND PROCEDURAL SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS.

3. AS THE EMBASSY ENVISIONS SEVERAL PROBLEMS WITH THE OFFICE LAYOUT PLAN RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT, WE WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW THESE AREAS ALONG WITH OUR PROPOSED CHANGES.

4. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE OFFERED BY BLOOR:

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A. BASEMENT - NO MAJOR PROBLEMS ARE SEEN; ONLY MINOR

CHANGES ARE REQUIRED FOR TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT ROOM AS NOTED BY RCO IN BONN TELEGRAM 19966 (75) AND BERLIN TELEGRAM NUMBER 7846 (75).

B. GROUND FLOOR - RESTROOMS AND A GARDEROBE ARE BEING

INSTALLED IN THE USIS AREA. THE EMBASSY PROPOSES IN ITS REVISED PLAN TO COMBINE THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARY WITH THE GROUND FLOOR USIS LIBRARY. WHILE THIS CHANGE DOES NOT ALLOW FOR A U.S. COMMERCIAL OFFICER TO OCCUPY AN OFFICE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE LIBRARY, WE BELIEVE THE ADVANTAGES OF THE COMBINED LIBRARY SOURCE AND THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING AT LEAST ONE COMMERCIAL LOCAL EMPLOYEE ASSIGNED THERE OUTWEIGH THE DISADVANTAGES. WE SEE NO PROBLEM IN THE CONSULAR SECTION PLAN. THE EMBASSY WILL REQUEST THE DLA TO IMPLEMENT RECEPTIONIST AREA CHANGES OUTLINED IN PARA 4 OF BERLIN TELEGRAM 6885 (75) AND APPROVED BY DEPARTMENT.

C. SECOND FLOOR - THE SECOND FLOOR IN THE DEPARTMENT'S PLAN CALLS FOR A COMMERCIAL AREA, PART OF ADMINISTRATION, PART OF USIS AND AGRICULTURE. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE FAR PREFERABLE NOT TO SPLIT USIS AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATION ANY MORE THAN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. AT THE SAME TIME, IT WOULD SEEM THAT ANY AGRICULTURE STAFF, AT SUCH TIME AS THEY ARE ASSIGNED,

COULD BE EASILY POSITIONED ON AN UPPER FLOOR OF THE BUILDING. THE EMBASSY'S PLAN WOULD CEDE THE TWO OFFICES NOW ASSIGNED TO AGRICULTURE TO USIS AND, ASSUMING THE COMBINED USIS/COMMERCIAL LIBRARY DESCRIBED ABOVE, WOULD RELOCATE THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF FROM THE THIRD FLOOR TO THE SECOND FLOOR COMMERCIAL SPACE TO PROVIDE OFFICES FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, U.S. SECRETARY, GSO AND RSO. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT ONE COMMERCIAL OFFICE BE RETAINED ON THE SECOND FLOOR FOR CONTACT WITH BUSINESSMEN, ETC., UTILIZING THE AREA NOW DESIGNATED AS "CENTRAL REPRODUCTION."

D. THIRD FLOOR - SINCE THE AMBASSADOR IS TO BE LOCATED ON THIS FLOOR, WE FIND PARTICULAR PROBLEMS WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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FIGURATION ENVISIONED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S PLAN. THE DEPARTMENT'S PLAN HAS, IN ADDITION TO THE EXECUTIVE SUITE, OFFICES FOR THE ADMIN OFFICER, RSO, GSO, A SECRETARY ON THE ADMIN SIDE, A DEFENSE ATTACHE SECTION, THE PAO

AND A PAO SECRETARY. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT NONE OF THESE FUNCTIONS OR PERSONNEL SHOULD BE HOUSED ON THIS FLOOR AND PROPOSES TO REPLACE THEM WITH THE FULL

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTIONS. THE POLITICAL SECTION, PLANNED FOR FOUR OFFICERS AND TWO SECRETARIES, COULD FIT INTO THE AREA DESIGNATED FOR DEFENSE ATTACHE AND CONFERENCE ROOM IF THE DARKROOM-FILE ROOM AREA IS INCLUDED. THE EMBASSY'S PLAN PRESUMES THAT THE DARKROOM AND FILE ROOM AREA DESIGNED FOR THE FOURTH FLOOR WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE DESIGN FOR THAT SAME AREA ON THE THIRD FLOOR. THE PREVIOUSLY DESIGNATED THIRD FLOOR PAO OFFICE WOULD BE USED TO HOUSE THE ACR AIR CONDITIONER UNIT, A DISINTEGRATOR AND, ROOM PERMITTING, DICTATION BOOTHS. THE SPACE DESIGNATED FOR THE RSO WOULD BE USED TO EXPAND THE EXECUTIVE AREA, INCLUDING CONFERENCE SPACE.

E. THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR ESTABLISHING A DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE AT THE EMBASSY AS A MATTER OF USG AND NATO POLICY IN LIGHT OF THE STATUS OF BERLIN.

F. FOURTH FLOOR - THE AREA SHOWN AS "POLITICAL UNIT" ON THE DEPARTMENT'S FOURTH FLOOR PLAN WOULD BE EFFECTIVELY DISBANDED. IT WOULD BE REFORMED AS A POLITICAL SECTION AND AN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION, BOTH LOCATED ON THE FLOOR BELOW. THIS FOURTH FLOOR SPACE COULD BE USED FOR THE AGRICULTURAL OPERATION. TWO VIP OFFICES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON THIS FLOOR FOR FUTURE EXPANSION.

G. FIFTH FLOOR - WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL TO THE FIFTH FLOOR SPACE. THE EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSIENT QUARTERS ON THIS FLOOR, FOR USE OF SEABEES AS WELL AS OTHER TRANSIENTS.

H. THE EMBASSY REQUESTS APPROVAL OF THE CONCEPT OF A CONFIDENTIAL

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NEW PLAN AS DESCRIBED ABOVE. AS SOME PROPOSALS REQUIRE EXTENSIVE WORK, NOT CONSONANT WITH THE CURRENT PLAN BEING FOLLOWED BY THE DLA, THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL TO ASK THE DLA TO IMMEDIATELY DIVERT ITS ACTIVITIES AWAY FROM THE SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS, PENDING A FINAL DETERMINATION OF SPACE CONFIGURATION. COOPER

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